

The BEEHIVE

April 28 — June 30, 2014 ISSUE
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BEARING TESTIMONY THROUGH PERFORMANCE



Photo by Jerry Ferguson

Thousands of Arizona Latter-day Saints participated in recent productions that allowed them to share their testimonies through the performing arts. As part of the Gilbert Temple Cultural Celebration, 12,000 youth from the Gilbert Temple District joined in a massive production performed for an audience that included the prophet, President Thomas S. Monson. Then, just a few weeks later, 484 cast members shared their testimonies of the Savior, portraying his life and mission through music, dance and drama in the Mesa Easter Pageant.



Photo by Jerry Ferguson



Photo courtesy Mesa Easter Pageant Committee

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The Beehive is now distributed in 113 locations including many Frys, Albertsons, 7-Eleven and Kmart stores, as well as several local LDS businesses throughout the valley. For a complete listing of where you can pick up a FREE copy of The Beehive, please visit www.ArizonaBeehive.com and click on "Distribution." You may also read an entire issue of The Beehive online on our website under the "Issue Archives" section.

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COVER Story

Arizona Latter-day Saints Share their Testimonies of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Dance, Drama & Music

By Cecily Markland
with Cindy Williams
and Evelyn Hendrix
The Beehive

Since the Restoration of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—even during times of great trial as the pioneers crossed the plains—music and the arts have provided a way for Church members to grow closer to the Spirit, learn principles of the gospel, increase in faith and, especially, to share their testimonies.

This Spring, in two massive productions, thousands of Arizona Latter-day Saints shared their testimonies of the Restored Gospel through music and the arts.

The events were historic, even record-breaking; the logistics alone boggle the mind. One, the Gilbert Temple Cultural Celebration, was the largest of such performances ever

held by the Church, with 12,000 young people from the temple district sharing their commitment to “Live True to the Faith”—the theme of the Celebration.

The other, the Mesa Easter Pageant, involved the largest cast the pageant has ever seen, with 484 and a volunteer crew of nearly 400 more who worked together to portray the life and mission of Jesus Christ to audiences of approximately 10,000 at each of the 10 performances during the two weeks before Easter.

Both represented tremendous sacrifices of time, incredible stretching of abilities, and countless prayers for strength and support—all of which paid off in immeasurable ways as cast members, crew and thousands in the

audiences experienced increased faith—and even miracles.

President Thomas S. Monson referred to the Cultural Celebration during his opening remarks of April’s General Conference. He said, despite the rain that fell during the entire production, “The dancing, singing and musical performances were outstanding.” He said the messages were “portrayed magnificently” and said it was a “faith-filled, inspiring experience.”

Roseanne Tidwell, Celebration chairperson, believes the participants

were spiritually uplifted, even as the rain poured down.

During the months of rehearsals leading up to the celebration, Sister Tidwell received many letters from parents saying they had seen changes in their child, and “some from youth said ‘my whole family has changed.’”

David Wilson, 17, of Gilbert Third Ward, Gilbert Highland West Stake, played the role of Shadrach.

Continued on pg. 4



Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

As participants in the Gilbert Temple Cultural Celebration, 12,000 youth learned more about true heroes and then used their talents to show that they would emulate these heroes, not only during the performance, but as part of their everyday lives.

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Dance, Drama and Music
Continued from pg. 3

Though rain poured during the Gilbert Temple Cultural Celebration, the 12,000 youth participants performed a heartfelt production that demonstrated, through music and dramatic vignettes, their desire to "Live True."



Photo by Jerry Ferguson

"I can't imagine feeling that heat and not dying," he said. "[Shadrach] lived true to his faith and it strengthened my testimony to choose the right."

Caitlin Marble, 17, of the Lakeside Ward, Gilbert Val Vista Stake, recalls how she felt when she heard a temple would be built in her hometown.

"I was hoping to somehow show my excitement and when I heard about the celebration, I wanted to be part of it," she says. Caitlin wore a pioneer dress and played her violin in the hoedown scene.

In one segment of the production,

more than 300 youth played ukuleles and sang, "How Can I Be?"

The youth were dressed in bright-colored t-shirts and jeans—and were quickly soaked through. Drops of water flicked off their ukulele strings as they strummed. Yet, says 13-year-old Chase Williams of the Gilbert Greenfield Stake, "The rain hardly bothered us. It was so much fun playing and singing for President Monson and President Eyring."

Nelson Schnepf, 14, of the Gilbert Arizona Greenfield Stake says, "I think [that] was probably the best part of the whole night. I was making music for the prophet, which was like bearing my

testimony."

His 12-year-old brother, Hunter, added, "It was phenomenal."

Victoria Rowan, 15, of the Gilbert Greenfield Stake, agrees, saying, "It was an interesting, unique opportunity. It was lots of fun to see the prophet. I wrote about it in my journal."

"The youth were amazing. They sang their hearts out without any complaints. The weather had no hold over their testimonies," says "Captain of Ten," Jeff Williams of the Gilbert Arizona Greenfield Stake.

The event not only strengthened the participants, but it also touched those who watched the depiction of heroes through music and dance.

"I had nonmember teachers from school who watched it," says David. "They said it was really cool and thanked me for inviting them."

"I have had so many missionary experiences. Not only does this new temple affect me, but it will affect my kids," Caitlin says.

Sister Tidwell says working with these hundreds of youth only increased her belief in the power of music to teach and testify of truth.

Jenee Wright Prince, who has served as the director of the Mesa East-

ter Pageant for the past three years, says she has similar feelings.

"For me, I feel lucky that I've always been able to bear testimony through song," she says. "On my mission, for the first eight or nine months especially, I sang to various groups all over Denmark," Sister Prince says. "I was able to give voice to my testimony through song."

Those experiences, then, later, singing with various other choirs, including performances for Rob Gardner's Spire Music, helped her see, "The arts open up a way for the spirit to be felt."

She says the song, dance and dramatic interpretations of Easter Pageant, help the audience feel the spirit. At the same time, cast members can have a type of spiritual awakening and a very tangible experience, she says.

"Some may feel uncomfortable on stage at first. Not everyone in the cast is a professional musician or experienced performer," she says.

As they learn the mechanics, where to stand and how to move, participants are also instructed to read their scriptures and to study "Preach My Gospel."

"This helps them to get ready, to get in the right mindset," Jenee says. The directors encourage cast members to consider how they would feel in the situations they are portraying, "so

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Dance, Drama and Music Continued from pg. 4

By acting in the role of apostles or of others who lived at the time of Christ, cast members of the Mesa Easter Pageant are able to "walk in footsteps" that help them remember the lessons of Christ and the reality of His life and mission.



Photo courtesy Mesa Easter Pageant committee

they are not putting on a show, but are having a real experience and reacting to the scenarios presented on the stage."

Then, she says, "When they join their voices with 484 other cast members to sing 'I Know He Lives,' it becomes very real, very personal."

Tyler and Linsey Maxson, of the Westwood Ward, Maricopa Stake, have seen this in their lives.

"The Easter Pageant feels as real as it could possible feel," Linsey says. "We have done so many other shows and, a lot of times, you are performing for the audience. Being in the Easter

Pageant is an experience for ourselves and our family."

She says they were hesitant when Tyler first tried out and as he took on the role of Christ.

"At first we thought, no way; we don't do the Easter Pageant." Now, five years later for Tyler and three years since Linsey and their four children started participating, "We can't see giving it up."

"For months after, our kids talk about it. They love it. We have to wrap up in towels or other quick-fix costumes and reenact all the scenes from the pageant," Linsey says.

"It's all about testimony building,"

she adds.

Robert Allen, his wife, Norine, and their four children participated in the Easter Pageant 10 years, and six of those Robert portrayed the role of Christ. The Allens also participated in the Nauvoo Pageant. Robert appeared in the film, "Joseph Smith, The Prophet of the Restoration" and has been the model for photographs and fine art pictures of Christ.

"I've learned that the Lord will

reach out to his children in whatever ways they can be touched," Robert says. "The hymns, music and the arts can open the doorway to the soul, can open the window to the heart and can invite the spirit."

"In my experience, portraying historical events has only served to strengthen my testimony," he says. "The arts help us to imagine what historical events must have been like and make them real to us. They help us remember ... help us observe anew. And, because we remember, we're blessed. Because we remember, our children can be blessed, our grandchildren can be blessed."



Photo courtesy Mesa Easter Pageant committee

In what has been called the largest outdoor Easter pageant, the Mesa Easter Pageant provides an opportunity for huge audiences, as well as for cast and crew members, to learn more about the Savior and to increase in faith as the Pageant depicts scenes from the Savior's life and ministry as well as his crucifixion and glorious resurrection.



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New Gilbert Temple Presidency Leads with Love and Dedication

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

David E. LeSueur, recently called as the first Gilbert Arizona Temple President, says he is grateful for the opportunity.

"I love what I have felt and continue to feel," in the temple, he says. "I love what it does for me, and for all the children of men who are anxious to improve their lives and come closer to their Heavenly Father."

President LeSueur, 64, serves with his wife, Nancy Lee Rigby LeSueur, the new temple matron.

His counselors and the assistants

to the matron are Darl Andersen, first counselor, and his wife, Kaye, and Robert H. Hicken, second counselor, and his wife, Patricia.

Prior to his current calling, President LeSueur served as an Area Seventy. He also was president of the Philippines Manila Mission, stake president, high councilor and a bishop's counselor. Now retired, President LeSueur was founder and chief executive officer of LeSueur Investments. A Mesa native, he is the son of Leo Robertson and Thelma Claire Leslie LeSueur.



Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

Serving in the leadership of the new Gilbert Arizona Temple are (l to r) Kaye Andersen, assistant to the matron; Darl Andersen, first counselor; Nancy LeSueur, matron; Dave E. LeSueur, Temple President; Robert H. Hicken, second counselor and Patricia Hicken, assistant to the matron.

In addition to serving with her husband in the Philippines Manila Mission, Sister LeSueur has been a stake Relief Society president, ward Young Women president, ward Primary president, stake and ward music chairman and organist.

She learned to love the temple from her parents, Charles Emery and Mary Jayne Rigby, who attended the temple

often.

"My parents were temple workers for many years and my 93-year-old father is still an ordinance worker in the Mt. Timpanogos Temple. I have loved my service as an ordinance worker as well," she says, adding, "I love the temple because it is a great

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New Gilbert Temple Presidency Continued from pg. 6

pattern for our homes—beautiful and well built, orderly, clean, peaceful, and a place of service. The spirit that I feel in the temple is the spirit that I want to feel in my home."

First counselor in the temple presidency, President Andersen, has been a bishop and a member of a stake presidency. He and Sister Andersen were stake missionary prep teachers when they received their new callings.

President Andersen says, "The peace and joy that we receive whenever we enter the doors of the House of the Lord cannot be matched anywhere else on this earth. We feel a strong desire to recommit ourselves to be better spouses, parents, grandparents, friends, neighbors and examples of our beloved Savior, Jesus Christ."

The new second counselor, President Hicken, has served as bishop, in a stake presidency and as Mission President of the Mexico Mexico City East Mission.

"I love the peace and solace of the temple," he says. "The spirit of our Heavenly Father permeates all that takes place in the temple. Those who work as temple workers as well as the patrons are a joy and inspiration to be with."

President LeSueur says he, too, has been inspired by the love and dedication to the temple demonstrated by Arizona Latter-day Saints.

"This Temple is a tribute to every, God-loving, commandment-keeping, tithe-paying Saint in this community. It would never have been built without them. We can't look at the temple without thinking of their sacrifices, their perseverance, their faith and faithfulness, and their goodness," he says.

He continues, "There will never be in this part of the Valley a greater tribute to the faith of men and women, deceased and living, nor a greater blessing to their posterity than this

Holy House. Our sons and daughters will be endowed there, married there, and, like us, will serve there for generations to come."

Sister LeSueur believes, "The Saints in Gilbert will be blessed as they attend the temple and claim the blessings that are promised there." In turn, "The righteous example of parents will bless their children."

"I believe the full impact of having a temple in Gilbert will not be realized for a long time to come," President Hicken adds.

President LeSueur encourages all worthy members to attend the temple. Referring to April General Conference, he says, "We were encouraged to 'remember' our temple commitments and promises."

"And," he adds, "the best way to 'remember' is to come often and 'review.' We are thrilled with the numbers of patrons who are doing just that, and we invite all within and outside of the temple district to take advantage of this marvelous blessing."

"The Saratov Approach" Released on DVD

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Recognized for "pushing the boundaries" among Mormon movies, "The Saratov Approach" made an impressive mark in the national market, grossing more than \$2.1 million at the box office.

Now, the movie's success is expected to continue among home viewers, as the movie was released on DVD on March 11.

"The Saratov Approach" is based on the true story of two missionaries, one from Gilbert, Ariz. who were kidnapped while serving in Russia.

It had been 15 years since that experience when director, Garrett Batty, approached Travis Tuttle, a graduate of Gilbert High, and Andrew Lee Propst, of Lebanon, Oregon, with the idea of doing a movie.

"They were very hesitant at first,"

Garrett says. He is glad they acquiesced.

"The movie has meant a lot to a lot of people," Garrett says. "I've heard from so many who say it helped increase their faith and recognize God in their lives.

Garrett says he was a little surprised at the reception the movie has received, especially among missionary moms. "Moms have come up to me, emailed and called me to tell me how important the film is to them."

He says, "The movie's success has been a fantastic tribute to what Andrew and Travis did and the decisions they made at the time of the experience."

The DVD is available on the website at www.saratovapproach.com and at DeseretBook.com, Amazon.com and in LDS bookstores. Visit the website for additional information.



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Not-so “Perfect Day” Results In Perfect Lessons of Faith and Testimony



Photo courtesy Gilberto Laparra

Laura and Gilberto Laparra say they felt the power of the many prayers offered in their behalf after they were involved in an accident while on their way to the Gilbert Temple where they were serving as volunteer tour guides during the temple open house.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Saturday, February 8, had been a “perfect day” for Laura and Gilberto Laparra, members of the Boulder Creek Ward in the Boulder Creek Stake.

The Laparras, who have three girls at home and one serving in LDS mission in Lubbock, Texas, had spent their morning with their daughters, working in the house and yard. By late afternoon, Laura and Gilberto were heading to the Gilbert Temple Open House, to complete their assignment as volunteer tour guides.

A perfect day...until, moments after parking across from the temple, just as Laura and Gilberto were stepping off the curb into the crosswalk, two cars collided, causing one to spin out of control.

“All of the sudden, one of the cars hit us, ripped her away from me and forced me in the opposite direction.”

To his horror, he soon discovered that Laura was under one of the cars.

“Never in my life had I had such a feeling of worry and sadness,” Brother Laparra says. “I was so desperate.”

Two men came to his aid and they

managed to lift and push the car away.

“There was so much blood,” and Laura was not responsive. When a man tried to move Gilberto away, he realized, “I needed to be calm if I was going to be able to stay with her,” he says. “I tried to get myself under control, and I asked everyone to step aside so I could give Laura a blessing.”

By then, paramedics had arrived. They placed Laura in one ambulance, and, concerned about the pain in Gil’s back, they placed him in another.

“They took her away and my heart feared the worst,” he says. “My mind was overwhelmed, thinking that I had lost her and my entire being was filled with inexplicable pain.”

Friends began arriving at the hospital. “They helped comfort me and gave me a blessing,” Gil says.

Finally, after being released to go to Laura’s side, “Doctors told me it was 50-50 that she would make it. Said we needed some ‘good luck’ and said things like ‘If she survives...’”

Laura’s skull had been shattered

Continued on pg. 9

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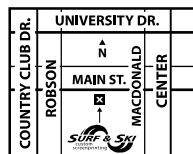
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Not-so "Perfect Day"

Continued from pg. 8

"like a windshield" they said. Doctors were fairly certain she would be deaf, have permanent paralysis in her face and that she may never be able to eat, talk or walk again.

"I have always had faith in my Savior, but I prayed and prayed that I would have the faith I needed, especially if it was her time to go," Gil says.

Countless other prayers were offered. Family members prayed as did hundreds of Facebook friends, friends from his native country of Guatemala

and hers of Chile, from their years in the Easter Pageant and from when Brother Laparra was branch president of a Spanish-speaking branch in Mesa, as well as 12,000 new friends participating with their daughter in the Gilbert Temple Cultural Celebration.

Laura was kept in a medically induced coma at first, to allow the swelling in her brain to subside. Eight days after the accident, she said Gilberto's name for the first time, and after a month in the hospital, went home.

"Some beautiful experiences happened in the ICU. I believe the spirit was there. I believe my Savior was

there," Gilberto says.

Laura can hear, walk without limping, and—other than the day of the accident the time spent in a coma—her memory is good. She still has some paralysis in her face and wears a neck brace while a broken vertebrae heals, but the Laparras say, "It's truly miraculous."

"Angels were here," says Laura. "I was always protected, always taken care of."

They both say the accident brought their family closer together and increased their faith.

Gilberto points to three specific

miracles. First, he says, it brought him great strength to hear his missionary daughter share her faith that "everything is going to be okay." Second, "Laura's recovery is a miracle and we are so grateful." Third, he has been amazed at the "brotherhood of the Saints" and the ways in which people have reached out to serve and show their love.

"It's amazing how close heaven is and how surrounded we are by angels, and by Christ himself," Laura adds.

For more about the Laparras' experience or for how to contribute, visit <http://www.lauralaparra.blogspot.com/>



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Arizona NATIVE

Called as **One of 42** New Area Seventies

By Stephanie Abney
The Beehive

Just months after completing his service as a Mission President and returning to Arizona, Leonard D. Greer, has been called as an Area Seventy of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Forty-two new Area Seventies were announced during the Saturday afternoon session of General Confer-

ence on April 5, 2014. According to the Church's website (LDS.org), "Area Seventies give part-time voluntary Church service within their assigned geographic areas and support area presidencies in international areas."

Elder Greer's assigned area will include Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico and Texas.



Photo by Denny Barney

Elder Leonard D. Greer, with his wife, Julie, at the Gilbert Temple dedication, was one of the 42 new Area Seventies announced in April General Conference.

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He and his wife, Julie Neville Greer, both native Arizonians, are currently members of the Gilbert 6th Ward, Gilbert Arizona Highland West Stake. They are the parents of four grown children: Mary, Josh, Rob and Aubrey; and they have 11 grandchildren.

A graduate of Arizona State University, Elder Greer went on to receive his law degree from the University of Arizona. He is a partner in Raymond, Greer & Sassaman, P.C., a law practice that has served Arizona citizens for many years.

Known for his hard work, compassion and dedicated Church service, Elder Greer served a full-time LDS mission as a young elder in the Canada Toronto Mission during the mid-'70s. Later, as a husband and father, he served as the Young Men's president, bishop, a counselor in the stake presidency and then the stake president, a calling he held from 2005 to 2010. He also served as Mission Preparation Coordinator, a calling that helped him with his own mission preparation.

As Mission President of the Washington Kennewick Mission from 2010 to 2013, Elder Greer loved serving with Sister Greer and having her as his mission companion.

"I have been working hand in hand with my wife, Julie, for the past three years, teaching and testifying to mis-

sionaries, investigators and members. We have developed an incredible love for the Doctrine of Christ and look forward to continuing to teach and testify as we have been doing in the Northwest these past three years," says Elder Greer.

The Greers say their Church service also has shown them how important mentoring can be. He says he had family members who were great mentors, as was his Mission President, M. Russell Ballard, now a member of the Quorum of the Twelve. Other priesthood leaders he has learned from are Elder David LeSueur (recently released as Area Seventy to serve as the Gilbert Temple President) and members of the Presidency of the Seventy, including Elders L. Whitney Clayton, Richard J. Maynes, Tad R. Callister and Craig C. Christensen.

When not doing Church service, Elder Greer enjoys spending time with his family. He loves the outdoors. Hunting fishing, trap and skeet shooting are favorite activities. During quiet moments indoors, he enjoys reading or writing.

After his name was announced in conference, one of Elder Greer's granddaughters was so excited she began telling everyone, "Grandpa has been called to the 'Second Quorum of the Twelve.'"

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Have iPads, Will Teach: Mesa Missionaries Participate in Online Proselytizing

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Along with their ever-present scriptures and black and white nametags, fulltime missionaries in the Mesa Arizona Mission carry another important missionary tool—their own iPads.

The Mesa Mission is among only seven missions currently to be part of a pilot program to use iPads, Facebook, Skype and other tools for “online proselytizing.”

In the Church-wide broadcast, titled “Hastening the Work,” L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles introduced this idea saying that, for many people, their “main point of contact with others, even with close friends, is often via the Internet. The very nature of missionary work, therefore, must change if the Lord is to accomplish His work of gathering Israel ‘from the four corners of the earth.’”

Elder Perry explained, in order to accomplish this, “Access to the Internet by missionaries and the use of digital devices will be phased in over the next several months and into next year.”

He said missionaries would use the Internet ... “to contact investigators and members, work with local priesthood leaders and mission leaders, receive and contact referrals, follow up on commitments, confirm appointments, and teach principles from Preach My Gospel using mormon.org, Facebook, blogs, email, and text messages.”

Sisters Kelci Fry and Alexandria White, both from Texas and serving in the Udall Ward of the Mesa Stake are excited to be involved in online proselytizing.

“I heard the broadcast a few weeks

after I got my call, and I was so excited. The Internet has become one of Satan’s biggest tools, now the Lord is taking it back and using it for good,” Sister Fry says. “Now, we can reach the corners of the world. We don’t have to physically be there to take the gospel to someone anymore,”

“I knew having Facebook would make such a change in taking the gospel to my friends and family back home,” says Sister White.

The missionaries received training and “a whole packet” of instructions for using the Internet, including safeguards and measures to promote accountability.

The companions now spend an hour a day online.

“When we are online, our screens have to be visible to our companion,” Sister White says, “and our companion has to proof our Facebook posts before we send them.”

Sister Fry adds, “We are Facebook friends with our Mission President and his wife, so they can see anytime, at any moment, what we post.”

As with any missionary efforts, the two feel accountable to the Lord for the way they spend their time online.

“This is a huge responsibility. This is massive,” Sister Fry says, adding, “To keep from spending countless time scrolling or doing nothing related to missionary work, I put a sticky note on my screen that says, ‘Is what I’m doing furthering my purpose?’”

The two have blogs, where they post regularly; and, through Facebook, they have been able to encourage friends who are considering serving missions,

communicate with investigators and, “a less active friend and I read scriptures together and talk about them online every day,” Sister Fry says.

“We keep our Facebook posts short, simple and to the point, teaching so we can’t be misunderstood,” she adds, “and we do use hash tags, like #conference and #prophets.”

Another online tool, the Area Book Planner ap, has greatly simplified the tracking of investigators and reporting.

Some Mesa missionaries also serve in the Teaching Resource Center, making and answering calls in response to online inquiries and chatting with visitors to Mormon.org.

“Online proselytizing is really has-

tening the work,” Sister White says.

“It’s a marvelous work and a wonder, and it’s happening so fast,” Sister Fry says.

To learn how Church members can help, listen to “Hastening the Work” or read the text, at <https://www.lds.org/training/wwlt/2013/hastening/special-broadcast>



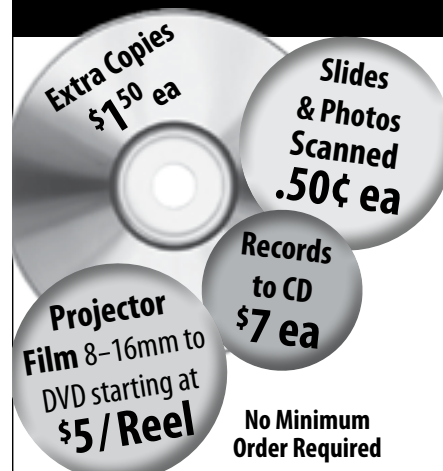
Photo by Cecily Markland

Fulltime missionaries in the Mesa Arizona Mission, including Sisters Fry and White (r), spend an hour a day using Facebook or other online tools as part of the pilot program designed to “hasten the work” with online proselytizing.

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Father and Son Help **BUILDING** Testimonies, Relationships & Houses

By Cindy R. Williams
The Beehive

Typhoon Yolanda, which ravaged the Philippines late last year, was one of the strongest typhoons on record. The typhoon made landfall on November 8, 2013, triggering heavy rains resulting in widespread flooding and landslides. Storm surges reached 13 feet, with winds of approximately 175 per hour, according to reports.

The typhoon left in its wake the need for countless volunteers to assist with cleanup efforts. David Carmichael, a counselor in the Arizona Gilbert Greenfield Stake Presidency, and his son, Jace, flew to Philippines at the end of February to help.

President Carmichael says, "I served as an LDS missionary in the Philippines from 1976 to 1978," and he

was happy to be asked to return when his former Mission President contacted him and others with the request to "assist in the rebuilding effort of more than 3000 families," says Carmichael.

The area where the projects took place was in Tacloban on the island of Leyte, which is where General Douglas MacArthur landed in 1944, fulfilling his promise to return and liberate the Philippines from the Japanese occupation.

During the two weeks they were there, President Carmichael says, "Jace and I joined about 70 other Americans and almost 100 local Filipinos in the effort."

They worked in teams of eight, and their team built 10 elevated houses. Each house is 12' x 12' and has three



Photo courtesy of David Carmichael

A Filipino family smiles in front of their new house, one of 10 elevated houses built by David Carmichael (third from left), his son, Jace, (far right) and other volunteers who helped with the cleanup efforts after Typhoon Yolanda caused mass destruction in the Philippines.

windows and a door. According to President Carmichael, the building supplies were donated by LDS charities.

"This experience has reminded me that our circumstances, environment and material possession really have

little to no effect on our degree of happiness," he says.

President Carmichael says, "I witnessed, worked and talked with hundreds of Filipinos who have lost all

Continued on pg. 13

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Father and Son Help Build Continued from pg. 12

material possessions and even lost family members, yet they are happy to be alive. They greet everyone with a smile and they are eager to share whatever they have with others. They are truly happy, in spite of their circumstances.”

President Carmichael and a friend, Tim Rowland, founded their business, Rowland Carmichael Advisors, with the charge of serving people and “doing the right thing.” They strive to help clients build a legacy to share in order to give back and enrich the lives of others.

“In the Philippines, Jace and I had the chance to ‘walk the talk’ – to truly live out these principles in startling reality. We were humbled and inspired,” says President Carmichael.

“Walking a mile in someone else’s shoes, or living a week in someone else’s devastation, changes one’s outlook and perspective,” he says. “Coming back home to family and work, I want to remember to always choose to see the glass half full, count my blessings and work with faith and hope for a better tomorrow.”

New Book Helps LDS Families Bring the MTC Experience to their Home

By Stacy Johnson
The Beehive

With the missionary age change announced in General Conference of October 2012, which allowed young men and women to begin serving at 18 and 19 respectively, church leaders also expressed the need to reduce the time spent in the MTC by one-third.

This prompted Rebecca K. Irvine to write her recently released book, *MTC at Home*.

She says the announcement “shifted the impetus of preparing future missionaries from the MTC to parents and leaders ... it was my desire in writing this book to give parents greater assistance in preparing and training their children.”

Rebecca, a member of Harris 2nd Ward, Mesa Central Stake, has lived in Arizona most of her life. She graduated from Mountain View High School and served a fulltime mission to England.

Now a communications professor at



Photo courtesy Rebecca K. Irvine

Recently released book, *MTC at Home* by Rebecca K. Irvine of Mesa, provides practical family home evening lessons for teaching family members how to be better member missionaries.

Mesa Community College, Rebecca has published three previous books: *Follow the Prophets*, *Adventures with the Word of God*, and *Family Home Evening Adventures*. She began writing several years ago. Her impetus, she says, was to create works that would better capture the attention of her own three future missionaries.

Rebecca hopes her new book will help parents apply Elder Russell M. Nelson’s message from the 2013 worldwide leadership training, where he said, “The preparation of future missionaries begins in the family. Each home can become a miniature Missionary Training Center... parents and teachers need to prepare their children earlier.”

MTC at Home is divided into eight chapters, with 4 to 10 Family Home Evening lessons, each with references to the *Preach My Gospel* manual, defini-

Continued on pg. 16



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"Manners for Missionaries"

Offers Great Lessons for Missionaries,
Helps for Moms . . . and More!

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

As Director of Etiquette and Personal Development at the Missionary Training Center in Provo, Utah, she spent six years teaching etiquette to missionaries.

That was years ago, and that calling no longer exists. Yet, says Nanci Wudel, now a member of Mesa 30th Ward, Mesa East Stake, the need has never been greater for missionaries to learn these skills.

A BYU journalism graduate, Nanci is an independent video producer/director and has appeared in many national television commercials. She was the Mesa Easter Pageant director for nine years.

"Manners is much more than knowing which fork to use," Sister Wudel says. "It's about how to pres-

ent and conduct yourself in virtually any situation.

As emissaries of Jesus Christ, our missionaries need to know how to relate to others, how to take care of basic hygiene—in other words, how to be their best selves in appearance and actions."

With this in mind, and at the suggestion of several mission presidents, Nanci wrote and produced a video called "Manners for Missionaries" in 1994. "Now, 20 years later, it is as relevant today as ever," she says.

While the information is essential for missionaries, it can apply to virtually anyone else, of any age, from every culture. "I have had requests for this from mission 'moms' throughout the world," Nanci says.

"Manners for Missionaries," now in DVD format,

has segments on table manners, how to build credibility and how to be more confident, gracious and modest. It also teaches about fitness and nutrition, clothing care—including how to iron shirts and remove stains—and apartment cleaning—including making a bed and cleaning a bathroom.

One Amazon.com reviewer says, "It has helped our children learn manners in a positive way." Another says, "This is great! So helpful for families, college students, teens, and just about everyone. . . the hair-styles and dress are a bit outdated, but [that] doesn't take away from the message. The principles are really well taught. . . Well done and a lot of information."

From its inception the project was, and continues to be, a labor of love and a way for Nanci to contribute to the Church's missionary efforts. Nanci donated her time and efforts to the project, and, over the 20 years since its creation, all proceeds from sales have gone back into the Church's missionary fund.

The DVD is only available on Amazon.com, and, to find it, you must enter «Manners for Missionaries» in the search bar.



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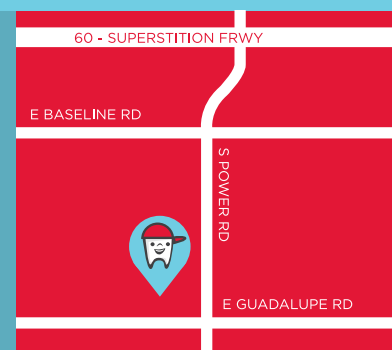
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Time to Blossom

Young Women's Conference Offers Overnight Attendance Option

Time to Blossom, a summer, week-long conference for young women ages 11 to 18, has added a second attendance option, allowing girls and parents to choose what works best for them.

Designed, "with a mission to empower young women with inner strength, courage, and confidence... Time to Blossom is much more than dance parties and fashion shows," say founders Debbie Forrest and Carla Jorgensen. "We are the only program for young women in Arizona that incorporates fun activities with testimony-strengthening experiences."

This year's keynote speaker is Elaine Dalton (General Young Women President from 2008-2013). The conference also features a full schedule of workshops, entertainment and activities, including service, crafts, a comedy show, dances and fashion and talent shows.

"We are similar to EFY, but several aspects set us apart," the cofounders

say. "Our program is for girls only. We cater every class and activity to teenage girls, what they want and need to learn." In addition, they say, "When young women go home from the conference they have grown spiritually and have gained the courage and confidence to stay strong."

Past participants say, "I gained confidence and inspiration to be more Christlike and follow Church standards," and "I learned to love my Savior more and how to draw closer to him."

Now, Time to Blossom offers a day option, meaning parents drop off and pick up their daughters at East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT) every morning and night; and an overnight option, meaning attendees stay in a hotel and are bused to and from EVIT.

This summer's conference is Monday, June 9, through Friday, June 13. To learn more about the speakers and events or to register, visit www.TimeToBlossom.com.

New Book Brings MTC Home Continued from pg. 13

tions of key terms and scriptures that enhance the purpose of the lesson. There are exercises included to supplement each lesson and apply the principles learned, such as how to teach, testify, and role play and how to share the message with others.

At the end of each lesson are additional resources from the nursery and Primary manuals and conference addresses, which can be used to suit individual family dynamics. Each book comes with a CD-ROM, including printable coloring pages or activities to go with each lesson.

Rebecca suggests, in order to get the most out of each lesson, the reader

should to be prayerful as they review, prepare and choose activities. She encourages being specific and direct when asking questions and inviting others to make commitments related to principles. Her book also offers specific instructions on how to role play gospel discussions and what questions to ask a nonmember friend when sharing the gospel.

Rebecca adds, "As I have written these lessons and then tested each in my own family, we have experienced in-depth discussions, explored interesting questions, and gained a greater appreciation for the fundamentals of the gospel of Jesus Christ."

MTC at Home can be purchased at Deseret Book, Seagull Book and amazon.com.

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Foreman Sees “CONCRETE” EXAMPLES of the Lord’s Hand at Work on the Phoenix Temple



Photo by Cecily Markland

The Phoenix Arizona Temple, the fifth temple in Arizona, is in the final stages of construction and, though not formally announced yet, is expected to be completed before the end of the year.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

The first new temples announced by President Thomas S. Monson were to be in Gilbert and in the Gila Valley of Arizona. Less than a month later, on May 24, 2008, President Monson announced another Arizona temple, this one to be built in Phoenix.

The official groundbreaking ceremony at the Phoenix Temple site, at 5220 West Pinnacle Peak Road, was held June 4, 2011.

While no official announcement has been made, construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2014. The 58,000 square-foot temple will have two ordinance rooms and four sealing rooms.

As of March, landscaping had begun, with landscaping boulders being positioned on the grounds and plants and bushes being added. The facing stone was being added to the main water feature and installation of the decorative fencing was underway.

Sportsmans Concrete, based in Mesa, is one of the companies involved in these final aspects of the construction.

“We have done all of the exterior concrete—the sidewalks, curbs and decorative concrete—everything you can see on the outside. And, we’ve poured miscellaneous things on the inside, like the ramps to the celestial room,” says owner Buck Leavitt, a member of Ironwood Crossing 2nd Ward in the Queen Creek North Stake.

Buck, whose company also worked on the Gila Valley Temple, says the work done on the temple is “meticulous. It’s the finest work you’ll find. It’s perfect; that what [the Church] expects and that’s what they get.”

Jeff Miller, foreman with Sportsmans Concrete and a member of the 34th Ward, Mesa East Stake, says, “Great care is taken to putting out the best product.”

Continued on pg. 27



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Arizona Native Publishes Two Books that Celebrate Women & Link the Generations

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Two new books, written and published by award-winning author and Arizona native, Fay A. Klingler, are different in format and intended audience; yet, quite similar in their message and purpose.

“Both books revolve around the influence and strength of women, especially how one generation influences another,” Sister Klingler says.

I Am Strong! I Am Smart!, written by Fay Klingler and illustrated by Briana Shawcroft is a story about 11-year-old Luisa May, or “Lu.” When Lu faces challenges, including being bullied at school and experiencing self-doubt, her grandmother uses a special puzzle to teach Lu about self-worth. In turn, when her grandmother needs help after a hospital stay, Lu reminds the older woman of her value and purpose.

Written for children ages 8 to 12, Fay says, “Reviewers say it also is wonderful for younger children, adults, and especially grandparents,” calling the book “a beautiful parallel for young and old alike,” with a “heartfelt message that unites and bonds generations.”

Fay’s second new release has been called a “perfect gift for Mothers’ Day.” A nonfiction book, *We Are Strong!: Mothers and Daughters Stand Together*, is a guidebook for “Fearlessly living the Young Women Values.”

The second book evolved as Sister Klingler worked on her children’s book. “When I sent it to my publisher, she said they didn’t produce children’s

books, but she loved my idea and asked me to write a nonfiction book,” Fay says.

Wanting to “help bring Heavenly Father’s daughters home” and knowing “great strength can come as girls learn to live and apply the Young Women’s values,” she used those values as the outline.

“As I wrote, I realized it wasn’t to be written just for young women,” she says. “It was to teach all women how important their examples are and that living the Young Women values is eternal.”

Fay includes examples and commentary, along with compelling real-life stories from women of all ages “to show how and why women must continue to live and teach these values.”

“Almost miraculously, stories came in that fit each chapter, each value, perfectly. Even after it was in the final edit, the editor called and said she would like to contribute her story. Honestly, it fit perfectly and was vital to that chapter.”

Through the process, she was reminded, “These values were inspired, just like the Proclamation to the Family. Heavenly Father has given us these inspired documents to work from, to teach us, and to lift us. The principles are eternal and pertain to us no matter how old we are.”

Sister Klingler, who grew up in Arizona and now resides in Draper, Utah, is an artist and illustrator as well as a creative and technical writer and sought-after motivational speaker. She says, while she started

writing in junior high, life lessons have focused her interests, so she now writes mostly about

women and the family. Her previous publications include *A Woman’s Power: Threads that Bind Us to God*; *Shattered: Six*

Steps from Betrayal to Recovery; *The LDS Grandparents’ Idea Book*; *My Magnificent Mountain*; *The Complete Guide to Woman’s Time* and *A Mother’s Journal*.

Of her latest books, she says, “I am hoping these books have a tremendous impact. Grandmothers will teach with more compassion. Granddaughters will welcome and appreciate opportunities to interact with grandparents. Mothers, grandmothers, and women of influence will give their hearts, their very lives, to preaching truth and living that truth.”

Learn more about Fay Klingler on Facebook (www.facebook.com/FayKlingler) or on her website (www.fayklingler.com). Books are available from her site, on Amazon.com at Changing Hands Bookstore or Seagull Bookstore.



Courtesy Fay A. Klingler

I Am Strong! I Am Smart! by Fay A. Klingler, with illustrations by Briana S. Hawcroft, is a powerful, heartwarming story about how 11-year-old “Lu” and her grandmother help each other gain confidence and increase their feelings of self-worth as they face personal challenges.



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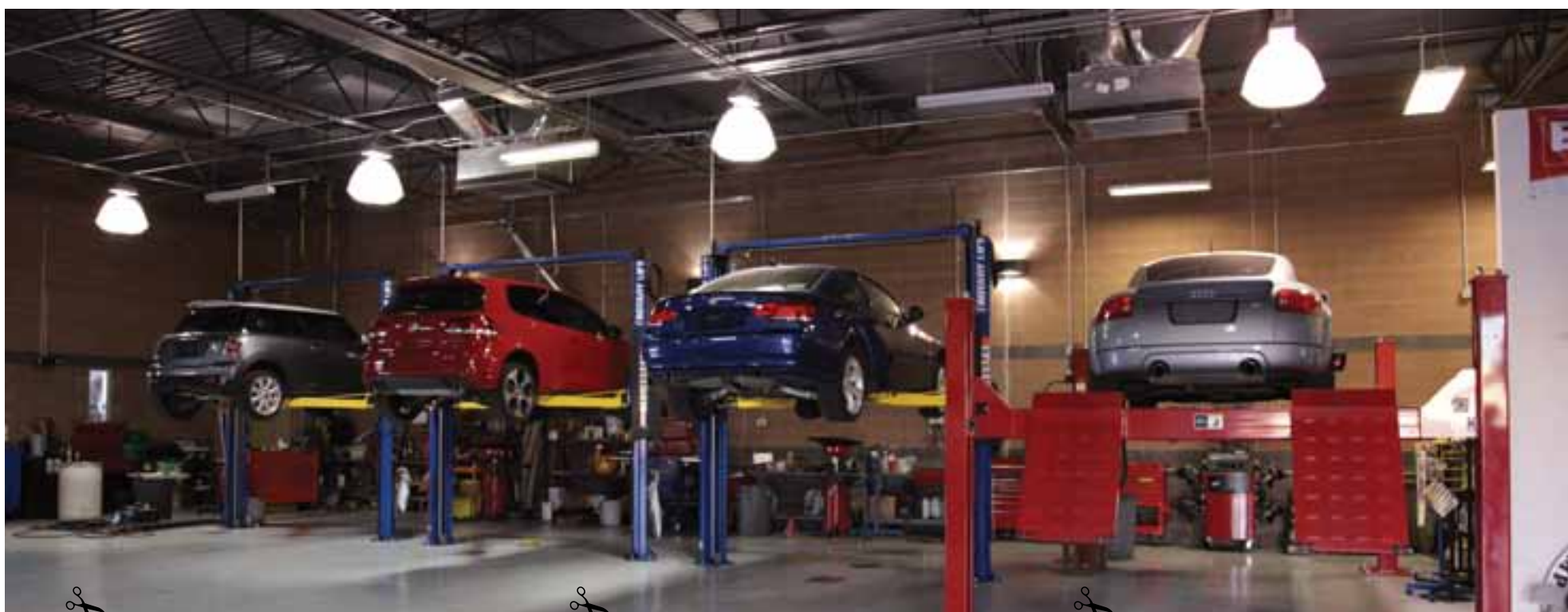
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Raised Jewish, Man Finds New Home Among the Mormons

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

His trip from Colorado to Arizona was supposed to be a quick business trip. Nothing more. Yet, coming to Arizona in November 2012 set in motion a series of events that drastically and permanently changed life for Michael Morton—and, all for the better, he says.

He had been a real estate broker in Colorado for 14 years, “We had a good system going,” and he didn’t see any reason to change. Another aspect of life that seemed fairly set in stone was his religion. “I grew up Jewish,” and “I was happy being a Jew,” he says.

But, then, he came to Arizona. He stayed with Ken and Joanne Russell, who happened to be members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They invited him to the Mesa

Temple Visitors’ Center and, there, he saw the film about Joseph Smith.

“That really hit me like a brick for some reason. I got really angry, sort of agitated, maybe because I had been persecuted, beat up and all kinds of stuff, growing up as a Jew,” Michael says.

During his stay, he also heard about the temple being built in Gilbert.

“As a real estate broker, I love seeing different structures being built. So, I kept telling myself that I wanted to go see the architecture of the temple. The truth of the matter is that I felt drawn there. I wasn’t sure why, but I knew that I had to see the building before I left town,” Michael says.

On Friday, on the way to the airport for his flight back to Denver, they went

by the site and stopped at the trailer that was set up to share information about the temple.

“The brother and sister showed us a short video on the LDS Church’s building of temples. I was fascinated. Growing up Jewish, I had an early education of Moses’ Tabernacle in the wilderness and Solomon’s great Temple. But why were these guys building temples?”

“To put it mildly, I was confused and overwhelmed at the same time.”

“Then,” he says, “something happened that I will never forget.”

One of the men asked if



Photo courtesy Michael Morton

Michael Morton (I), with Sister Kelsey Hamstead and Brother Ken Russell, converted from Judaism and joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on his 57th birthday.



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Michael could have a Book of Mormon to take with him. “They handed me a hard back edition of the Book of Mormon,” he says.

“As I held it, I looked down upon the book. Whatever anyone was saying in the room seemed to quickly fade. I was carried back to when I was a child of 13 or 14, sitting in Friday night services in my Jewish temple. In my hands was a copy of the Jewish Prayer Book, not the Book of Mormon.”

“Then a voice came into my head. ... It was the same voice that I had heard at different times during several personal revelations that week,” Michael says. “The voice said, ‘The book is true.’”

“Even now, I have a hard time explaining all of the feelings that I had that day. It was the first time I had held a Book of Mormon in my hands or read a single word of the book. I knew, with all my heart, that Heavenly Father was telling me it was true,” he says.

In the ensuing weeks, he received other direction—telling him to sell everything and move to Arizona and letting him know he was to join the LDS Church. He did so on his birthday in April 2013. Michael is now a member of the Thunder Mountain Ward, Salt River Stake, and again working as a real estate broker, here in Arizona. On April 17, he received his endowments at the Gilbert Arizona Temple.

He says he’s grateful to know, “Who Mormons really are,” and to have found his new home among “God’s covenant people.”

Michael will present a fireside May 18 at 7 p.m. at the meetinghouse at 7752 E. McDowell Road in Mesa. To contact Michael, email mortonteam@hotmail.com.

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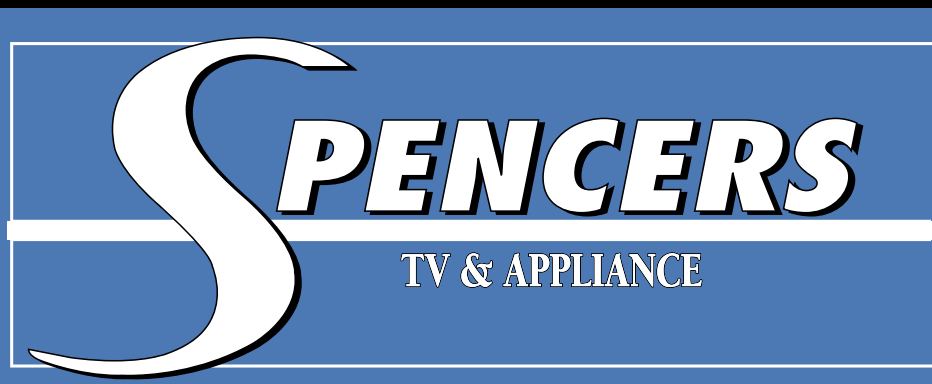
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“Mini missions” give Gilbert teens real-time mission experience

By Evelyn Hendrix
The Beehive

While many of her friends spent spring break at the beach, Valerie Burnham spent hers on a mission.

A senior at Campo Verde High School, Valerie won't be 19 and old enough to serve a fulltime mission for another year. But that didn't stop her from serving a “mini mission.”

She joined a dozen other teens from Gilbert Greenfield Stake. Each met with their bishops before receiving their “mission calls” to the Arizona Gilbert Mission. On Sunday, March 8, they received their assignments at a “transfer meeting,” said goodbye to their families and headed off.

“I learned the everyday things you do as a missionary,” says Valerie, including riding bikes and writing home only once a week. “The physical aspect was hard; missionaries work all day long.” Valerie learned that there is something even more difficult than missionaries face: disappointment. “When people reject [the gospel], it's hard not

to take it personally,” she says.

During her mini-mission, Valerie helped teach four lessons to investigators and spent several days in a Spanish-speaking area. “I learned, no matter what language you speak, the Spirit can touch hearts.”

Valerie was particularly impressed with the power of prayer in missionary work.

Hailey Johnson, a member of the Gilbert Ranch Ward, agrees. “We prayed all the time—probably 10 times before noon,” says Hailey. During her first lesson, her companions taught an investigator who expressed her desire to join the Church. “I invited her to think about baptism and that was really cool,” said Hailey.

During the week, the youth learned to hold planning meetings and schedule study time with their companions.

“There are so many things you don't think about,” says Hailey. “I really prayed that I would get along with my companions. But they were so kind and

so loving.”

Jeff Mask, of the Vintage Ranch Ward, who teaches the stake's mission prep class, explains that the mini-mission experience was a first for the stake and proved to be extremely successful. “I was overjoyed at the concentrated preparation it provided,” says Brother Mask. “[The youth] said that nothing prepared them to be missionaries more than these eight days.”

Brother Mask says they appreciate President Nattress and the help they received from the Arizona Gilbert Mission and they look forward to working with them again. “Our hope is to do it again, but it is dependent on what the mission can do.”

The 12 youth shared about 36 Books of Mormon during the week, including a few in Spanish.



Photo courtesy of Valerie Burnham

Young men and young women of the Gilbert Greenfield Stake served a mini-mission during spring break. A companionship stops for a picture together (L-R): Katelin Whaley, Gilbert Ranch Ward; Sister Chavarri and Sister Baria, full time missionaries in San Tan Valley; and Valerie Burnham, Vintage Ranch Ward.

On the last day, the “missionaries” arrived at the stake center for a testimony meeting to share their experiences. Many expressed that their missions were not long enough.

“I didn't think I would love it as much as I did,” says Hailey. In fact, she did not want to come home, except that she had something waiting for her: a white envelope with her “real” mission call. She will be reporting to the Brazil Recife Mission soon where she will speak Portuguese.

Thanks to a mini-mission during spring break, she will be better prepared to serve.

Phoenix Temple
Continued from pg. 18

He explains that, for the temple project, they do smaller pours and pay closer attention to the detail work. Yet, even with everything they do in terms of quality control, “You can't help but feel like a little bit of help comes from the Lord.”

He says, for example, “I've seen rain skirt around us, just skirt right around freshly poured concrete, almost like the parting of the Red Sea.”

Nonmembers on his crew “do sense that there is a difference when working on the temple,” Brother Miller says. “We have had a few people talk about that. They may joke about it a little bit, but they can tell that there is a difference.”

He adds that, for his nonmember crew, the project has stirred their curiosity about the Church.

“We have had lots of lunch breaks that are filled with questions about temples. They ask about different temples and about what goes on in temples. They ask a lot of questions,” he says.

Brother Miller says the Phoenix Temple is beautifully done.

“With Pinnacle Peak and the mountains behind it, it's beautiful, like it has its own place there in the mountains.”

A Missionary/Temple Information Room is located in the adjacent meetinghouse. The room can be accessed through the west doors and is open for visitors Monday–Friday, noon to 5:00 p.m.; weekday evenings and weekends, by appointment. To schedule an appointment, call 623-587-5565.

The Girl Who Brings LIGHT to Others Through Her Own Darkness

By Linda Turley-Hansen
The Beehive

Life's inspirations often come through others' battles in crisis, but few will ever hear a story as life-changing as Josie Thompson's. The 26-year-old Mesa resident is bipolar, a mental illness that encompassed her after she graduated from Mesa High School and entered her first years of college. To that point, she had excelled on every level, including being chosen high school homecoming queen and student body president.

As her bipolar condition intensified, and months turned into years, Josie chose to bring her torment into the light. She created a blog to tell her story. She says the blog has taken her beyond what she envisioned; the highlights are the considerable responses from those who also suffer mental illnesses and those who relate from other levels.

In tandem, she's created “The 444 Project,” the title taken from her family's favorite scripture: Alma 44:4. She says the promise of that scripture carries her through every day.

Read her full story on her blog, www.josie.thompson.com, where, among the many posts, you'll see this: “I am the bipolar girl, who has undergone what can easily be perceived as

three major failures: Withdrawing from college, breaking off an engagement and what served to be most discouraging ... receiving a mission call, but just one week before departure, having to withdraw due to the debilitating bondage of bipolar.”

As blog readers can learn much about Josie's triumphant yesterdays, her todays continue to be filled with progress as well. In May, Josie and trusted friend, Kelly Allen, will be in Rome, Italy, on a second series of The 444 Project. For the first phase of the 444 Project, Josie traveled alone through 30 states last year. Her goal was to meet people, learn from them and ask, “What gets you out of bed each day?” She hoped to reach 444 strangers. She topped 500 and, yes, a book describing her experience is forthcoming.

Late last year, her story ran in the Deseret News. The next day, she received an email from Gabriel Funaro, a member of the LDS Church in Rome. He asked her to bring The 444 Project to his country. He told her of the sorrows of those suffering there from discouragement and mental illness. After prayer and pondering, she “booked in faith,” Josie says.

Regarding this trip, she says:



Photo courtesy of Josie Thompson

As part of her efforts to spread joy to others, Josie Thompson (r) has traveled to many parts of the world. Before presenting a fireside in Ogden, Utah, Josie is greeted by a woman (above) she had never met before, but who came to the fireside with a artful rendition of Josie's slogan: What Brings You Joy?

“This journey is taking me beyond the boundaries of what I once regarded as impossible. This journey is giving me an experience that will defy all limitations and boundaries I had once set for myself. I will be lead to people who lead such a different life, yet stand in need of the same message of joy.”

Again, she question she will ask—posed this time to Italian strangers, who will quickly become friends—will be: “What brings you joy?” Those who wish to follow her can track her on her blog or Facebook.

Josie is a popular speaker on this topic. For details, or to schedule her to speak, find her contact information on her blog.



continues to make kids smile

By Emily Robbins
The Beehive

Dr. John Taylor, a Gilbert native, is proud to settle back in Arizona to work at his newly purchased pediatric dentistry office, Kids Grins.

Dr. Taylor, who recently completed his schooling and residency, is a board-certified dentist through the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry. He is excited to own his first practice in the state where he grew up.

"I'm a Gilbert native. I've been here my whole life," Dr. Taylor says. "I'm a local boy, from Gilbert Elementary to ASU. This is my home."

Kids Grins Pediatric Dentistry is an established children's dentistry office, serving families since 2000. Dr. Taylor purchased the practice in 2013, renovating the space for children and their families.

The staff at Kids Grins provides comprehensive, specialized pediatric dental care, including fillings, extractions, crowns, cleanings, nerve treat-

ment, sedation and full anesthesia. And, the staff goes beyond that, providing specific hygiene instructions for kids and their parents.

"I try to bring the parents over as I'm doing the exam and have them watch as I clean the children's teeth, to show them how to clean their kids' teeth at home," Dr. Taylor says. "We talk about diet and hygiene, milestones and growth, and development for the kids so the parents aren't surprised by anything."

It's important to Dr. Taylor that Kids Grins be a welcoming, comfortable place for children and their families.

The office features a special waiting room just for kids, with toys and iPads loaded with games, and another waiting room for parents. However, the best part of the office is arguably the "treasure tower," a toy dispenser where kids can choose a prize after their visit.

Since Dr. Taylor is the only dentist practicing at Kids Grins, each visit is

consistent and kids see and get to know the same dentist.

Dr. Taylor sees children of all ages, from 1 to 20, providing care for special needs children as well.

"We try to treat each kid like our family," Dr. Taylor says. "It's not a huge, big practice; it's not a chain. You see the same faces every time you come in."

The office staff is consistent as well; most have been with the practice for years, since before Dr. Taylor purchased it.

"It's a cozy environment, with a really experienced staff," Dr. Taylor says. "It's a fun place to work and a fun place to see kids."

Dr. Taylor is a member of the Highland Park Ward. He and his wife,



Photo by Natalie Miller

Dr. John Taylor, shown with his wife, Sarah, and their three children (l to r) River, Olive and Jude, is happy to be back in Arizona and to be practicing pediatric dentistry at his Mesa clinic, Kids Grins.

Sarah, have three children.

To learn more and to take a virtual tour of the newly renovated office, go to YouTube and search for the video, "Kids Grins Pediatric Dentistry Walk-Through."

Kids Grins, located at 4540 E. Baseline Road in Mesa, can be reached by calling 480-830-5466.



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Co-Author Sisters

Release Third in Series of Time-Travel Romances

By Stephanie Abney
The Beehive

At 13, she wrote her first novel, a time-travel romance. It had no direction and meandered from one scene to the next, but Shawnette Nielson knew she was destined to write and would figure out the details as she went along.

Now, the young wife and mother has teamed up with her sister, Carolyn Gregory. Their third novel, under their pen name "May Nicole Abbey," was recently published by River Valley Publishers. *The Dreamer*, *The Scholar* and *The Pauper* are part of "The Fall Series," and the stories just happen to be time-travel romances.

Shawnette and her husband, David, and their three children live in Glenview Ward, Mesa Kimball Stake. Her writing-partner sister and her family are members of the Third Ward in Oklahoma City Stake, Oklahoma.

While one may think the distance would pose a problem for co-authoring,

"It is the perfect relationship," Sister Nielson says. "My strengths are her weaknesses and her strengths are my weaknesses. We use DropBox to keep our work in sync, talk on the phone each day, and are each other's biggest fans. We trust each other implicitly."

Plus, they share a strong motivation for their writing. Both Shawnette and Carolyn, frustrated with the lack of morals in most contemporary literature, determined to join forces to write wholesome stories containing page-turning adventures with strong, moral messages of God and honor.

The sisters, born and raised in Alhambra, California, are prolific writers with plans to fill more than 20 books. Shawnette served an LDS mission to the Missouri St Louis Mission. She moved to Arizona shortly after getting married, over nine years ago.

Adventures call to Sister Nielson: traveling, hiking, rappelling, dirt bike

riding, snorkeling, horseback riding, skiing and swimming. Presently, her greatest joy is found in raising her children and taking care of her home and husband. But, she says, she continues to have adventures in her mind. And, she says, "I am compelled to write, write, write."

Sister Nielson likes the fact that time-travel novels have no limitations. So far, the sisters have covered Georgian Society, Ancient Egypt and the modern day. They've written about pirates, wars, the ancient politics of kings, crossing deserts and about being kidnapped and buried in a tomb.

"And, we have a vision of much more: Medieval times, fantasy, Ancient Greece, even science fiction, complete with our stamp on it. You name it. It's possible. It is so fun," Shawnette says.



Photo by Michael Suorsa

Shawnette Nielson writes with her co-author sister, Carolyn Gregory and, together, under the pen name of May Nicole Abbey, they recently released the third book in a series of time-travel romance novels.

Reader, Kate Stradling, of Mesa Kimball Stake, says, "I love that the stories build on one another. It's a fun series on the surface, but it plumbs the depths as well."

See sneak peeks of all their books at: <http://www.maynicoleabbey.com/> and their books are available on Amazon.com, under May Nicole Abbey.

Life brings change, but families are forever

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Rhyme and Reason

By Linda Turley-Hansen

Youth Exhibitionism Could Signal Psychological Disorders

Parents are being warned of an ugly trend attaching itself to America's youth. You'll want to learn more.

Social media exhibitionism: Suggestive messages and graphic personal pictures provide an overwhelming temptation for youth to become a "star" for a moment while the "topic of peer chatter."

It's such a severe problem that one psychiatrist calls it an "epidemic" and identifies it on some levels as becoming a "psychological disorder." Of course, drugs and alcohol are also generally linked to the behavior that has flooded the nation.

Psychiatrist Keith Ablow of Fox News says if kids distribute improper pics through their social media, parents should confiscate their phones and "shut down their Twitter and Facebook accounts and test them randomly for drugs and alcohol." Further, if kids fail drug/alcohol tests, they should be "grounded for a month." And, folks, he goes so far as to say

"every one of the teenagers directly involved should be in psychotherapy." See <http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2014/03/22/pull-plug-on-naked-twitter-teens/?intcmp=features>.

We know the Latter-day Saint community struggles mightily to shun social ills, but still, they infect us. With all we can do using faith and healthy living practices, we can still find ourselves facing the unthinkable. It's there, in that difficult place, we inventory our options.

Ablow's recommended courage most likely provokes a parental gasp. Many will brush off the doctor's stern approach, but they are those who do not recognize the deep, psychological harm certain social addictions create.

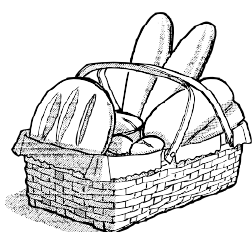
Ablow talks about "ego" satiation. He explains how "inappropriate exhibitionism has become the ready antidote to feelings of depression and boredom." Re-read that line.

Ablow tops off his warning with this: "We are in the middle of a worsening epidemic of psychological illness—with elements of narcissism, substance abuse and disinhibition—fueled by the likes of Twitter and Facebook." He warns our children are at risk. "The epidemic is real."

The home remains the last and the first when it comes to giving kids a chance in regards to character development and protection from exploitation. But, even then, even with inspired programs and materials for our constant use, LDS families can struggle with social disorders.

The good doctor's prescription offers parents a starting place, with prayers, spiritual promptings and consultation with spiritual leaders the final guide. But, it's clear, without determination, hard-line discipline will go soft. What won't work is a shrug and a blink. Our kids need our wisdom and parents who hold the line.

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From the Editor's Desktop

By Cecily Markland

Come and Partake of Living Water

My mother taught me the value of drinking water. She didn't sit me down and lecture me, didn't explain the benefits of hydration. She simply did it. Every hour or so, my siblings and I would hear her, turning on the faucet, filling her glass, adding a couple of ice cubes and then jiggling the glass a bit before she drank.

She did it several times a day. Now, I do it, too.

Like my mother, I drink five, six, sometimes eight or ten glasses a day. And, each time, within an hour, or two, I get thirsty again. When that happens, I can usually walk a few steps, open the refrigerator and lift the spigot on the container I bought from the nearby Water & Ice store. However, there are those times, when I am "out" of water, when I've consumed every ounce in all five of my five-gallon jugs, and I have to grab my keys, quarters and containers, jump in my car and go get more of what sustains me.

This need to be constantly re-hydrated, is a well-known phenomenon, one the Savior pointed out more than 2,000 years ago, when, traveling from

Jerusalem to Nazareth, he stopped to rest at Jacob's well. A Samaritan woman approached, carrying her empty jugs with her. After asking the woman for a drink, Christ told her, "Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again." It was a fact that must have seemed more-than obvious to the woman who, thirsting again, and with jugs in hand, had just headed back to the ancient version of a water store.

Next, Christ introduced her to a different kind of water. "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst ... the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

It's a beautiful promise, one that a desert-dwelling, water-lover like me instantly responds to. And, yet, knowing what I do about water ... and about thirst ... it's a promise that, at first, may seem a bit far-fetched or unattainable, at least for me.

You see, I've gone to that wellspring, tasted the living water, and felt the power of the atonement in my life. Yet, that doesn't seem to be the ultimate quencher.

I still struggle, I still face discouragement and disappointment, I still long for more. I still get thirsty.

What was it, really, that the Savior—the giver of all good gifts—was promising the Samaritan woman that day? What message was he sending about thirst and drought and water and wells?

The answer distills like dew from heaven.

The Savior didn't say, "You won't ever have to drink again." In fact, He wants us to drink, and to drink deeply, and often.

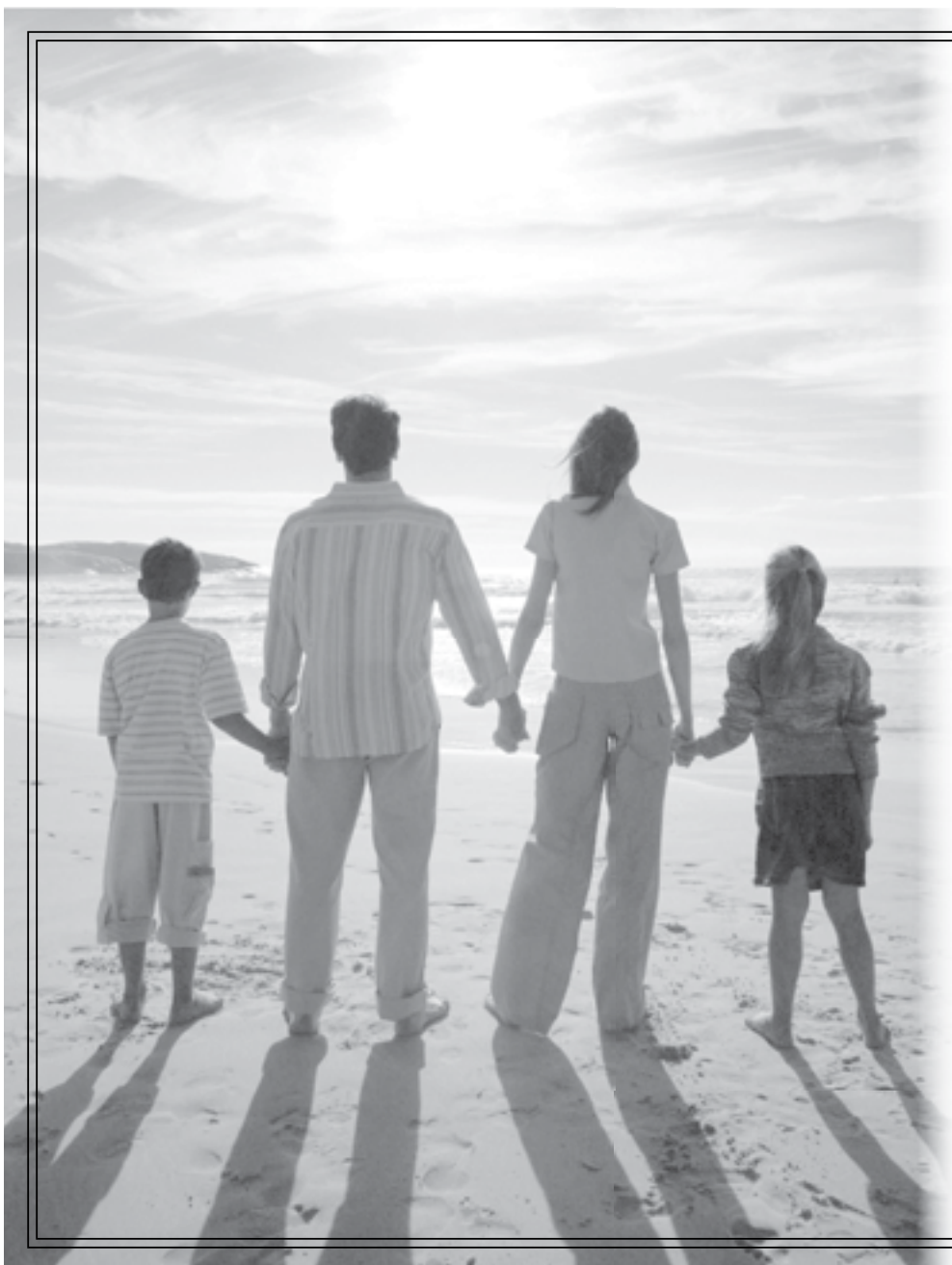
He wants us to come to Him with our cups empty, so they can be filled.

He wants us to come to Him with our stains, our filthiness, so He can wash us clean.

He wants us to come when we hunger and thirst after greater things, after more than this world has to offer, so, in our emptiness, he can lead us to drink again from the waters welling up to eternal life.

He wants us to come parched and dry, so we can be healed and restored.

He wants us to partake of living water.



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IN THE MOMMY ZONE...

By Kristi Young Fairbanks

The Testing Travesty

Our family is thick into of a week's worth of state-mandated testing.

For about a month now, my children have come home from school loaded down with educational year-end review packets, complete with bubble testing practice sheets. They have reviewed everything from science strategies to math misconceptions, reading requirements to language lessons.

From my high schoolers to my elementary school-aged daughters, even my junior high aged son in between, each has been barraged with a litany of learning and reassessment regiments in preparation for this grandiose week of compulsory testing.

We have received several copies of paper fliers, phone messages, and emails informing us of the importance and significance of these required and crucial tests. We have been warned to avoid making appointments during testing, reminded to make sure each student is well rested, and prompted to feed our children a hearty, nutritious breakfast beforehand.

Healthy snacks and cold water bottles are highly encouraged as well and each student is expected to dress comfortably to optimize testing ability and performance. In addition, particular pencils are required, as is silent reading material for students to peruse when testing is complete.

One phone message even encouraged parents to initiate blunt conversations with their children on the critical importance of scoring well on these compulsory exams, as particular schools use these required state tests to assess and rank students according to performance and in addition, utilize these scores for placement in competitive class courses.

It all seems a bit extreme to me.

The night before day one of testing flowed rather smoothly in our household. Several sets of comfortable school clothing were set out in anticipation and every child was tucked into bed early, while visions of successful testing strategies danced merrily through each imagination.

The next morning, I rose early and whipped up a breakfast feast fit for royalty. It included a nutritious blend of foods rich in energy stimulating fuel. For an added bonus, each child con-

sumed at least 10 blueberries for good measure to aid in digestion and assist in proven brain boosting vitalization.

In turn, each child entered his or her prospective school well rested, well fed, well timed, well versed in test taking maneuvers, and with well wishes streaming their way. My children were joyful, eager test takers, complete with healthy snacks and cold water bottles in tow.

Testing success! I felt proud of myself.

I settled down to muse about my good fortune and superb organizational skills in creating a model testing environment for success, when reality struck me right between the eyes. I realized I had to perform this rigorous ritual four more times for the next four more days. Worse yet, my children had to do the same.

I wished that instead of creating a week's worth of testing overload, the required focus would concentrate on the sheer enjoyment of learning my

children have been blessed with this past school year. I longed for the day when my youngsters would be free from the inevitable angst of a week-long testing schedule and be unrestrained to study various school subjects because they want to, not because they have to.

But for now, the marathon testing travesty looms large. It's a necessary evil we must all endure. I'd better go eat some blueberries, my attitude needs rebooting.

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True Healing Takes Place at Mercy Gilbert

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Mercy Gilbert Medical Center is proud of its important role in the health and wellbeing of its East Valley neighbors.

Since 2006, the full-service, acute-care hospital has been where lives begin, true healing takes place, and people of all ages and backgrounds are treated with dignity and respect. Among medical centers, Mercy Gilbert has a unique healing environment built on the ancient tradition that love is at the center of healing. This philosophy helps patients feel safe and comfortable, reminds staff why they chose healthcare as their profession, and is embodied by striking a balance between the latest scientific advancements and the demands of the human spirit.

The mission of Dignity Health, Mercy Gilbert's parent company, is to "further the healing ministry of Jesus," and is at the core of all they do. The hospital is dedicated to delivering compassionate, high quality, affordable care; serving and advocating for those

who are poor and disenfranchised; and partnering with others in the community to improve quality of life.

The 221-bed community hospital is recognized for its clinical distinction on a national as well as statewide level, thanks to its dedication to excellence in patient care, health education, medical research and providing the perfect mix of service lines for the community it serves.

The Emergency Department at Mercy Gilbert is an Accredited Chest Pain Center, a Designated Cardiac Arrest Center and a Primary Stroke Center, staffed 24/7 by Board-certified doctors and registered nurses, specially trained in emergency care. Specialists in heart, neurology, orthopedics and emergency surgery are on hand to treat anyone who comes through the door. And now, patients can wait in the comfort of their own home to be seen in the Mercy Gilbert ED by going to mercygilbert.org. The site displays projected treatment times at all Arizona Dignity Health Ur-



Photo by Mark Skalny Photograph

Mercy Gilbert Medical Center, in the tradition of its parent company, Dignity Health, is a full-service, acute care hospital where East Valley residents of all ages and backgrounds experience a unique healing environment and are treated with dignity and respect.

gent Cares and Emergency Rooms, and patients can get "in line" by entering some basic information before making the trip to the hospital.

Mercy Gilbert's Orthopedics Department is Maricopa County's only hip and knee replacement program with Joint Commission accreditation. The department also offers a wide range of orthopedic services designed to alleviate pain and increase mobility from a variety of disorders caused by sports injuries, trauma, degenerative diseases and other conditions. The program features pre- and post-surgical care, including guidance on exercise

to strengthen the body, medication to reduce pain and proper diet to help the body heal and return to good health.

Area residents benefit from a medical staff of more than 760 physicians, in addition to nearly 1,300 staff members and upwards of 330 volunteers. Dignity Health also owns and operates Chandler Regional Medical Center, Barrow Neurological Institute, St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix, and Urgent Cares in Ahwatukee, Gilbert, Maricopa and Queen Creek.

For more information, visit mercygilbert.org



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Contemporized, 40th Anniversary Version of **SATURDAY'S WARRIOR**

Opens in Arizona in June

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Some things get better with age. Such is the case for the 40th anniversary version of *Saturday's Warrior*, the family-friendly hit musical that debuted in the '70s. The original *Saturday's Warrior* became a blockbuster hit, starting with its first performances in California in 1973, then attracting record crowds, selling out more than 200 shows in Utah. The musical, by Douglas Stewart and Lex de Azevedo, is still considered a classic that won thousands of fans with its catchy music and heartwarming story, and that ushered in an all-new LDS art form.

Now, 40 years later, a contemporized version of the all-time favorite will open in Arizona in June.

Produced by Dreamweaver Productions and directed by none other than Norlan Jacobs, the director of the legendary Utah production, the *Saturday's Warrior* is "bigger, more beautiful and better than ever," the producers say.

The musical tells the story of the Flinders family and the eight children, who, while waiting to be born in the pre-existence, promise each other that

they will always be there for each other. On earth, two of the children, Jimmy and Julie, encounter personal struggles which bring to light questions about the eternal nature of family and about foreordained missions in life.

The script and song lyrics have been updated and modern costuming, sets and highly technical artistic effects will add to the appeal for today's audience.

Plus, Brother Jacobs says, "We've got an excellent, wonderful, amazingly talented cast. All of the roles are double cast, and every one of these performers are amazing. They're even better, more professional, than my original cast."

Michele Baer, who plays the matron and opens the show with the lyrics, "Who are these children coming down?" saw the original show as a teenager. "There is magic in the songs and power in the story. Together, it becomes an unforgettable experience for audiences," she says. "Even for the youngest, it gives a feeling of heaven, an eternal perspective. And, people won't believe how professional and exciting this production is. They will be blown away."

Ryan Edwards, cast as Mr. Flinders,

says, "I saw the show as a youth and I felt the spirit really strong. It strengthened my testimony, and I wanted to help recreate that and give that back to youth today."

Carson Saline, will play the lead role of Jimmy. Although he has studied musical theater and has a great deal of experience, this "makes me a little nervous," Carson says. "This really is a dream role. I feel a strong personal connection to the music Jimmy sings and what he goes through, and I really want the message to come through. I want to be sure I do the role justice."

Brother Jacobs says they are already seeing some ticket sales, both at local Deseret Book Stores and at the Higley Center for the Performing Arts, co-producer of the show and where *Saturday's Warrior* will be performed.

Brother Jacobs says, "Everyone has been so supportive and wonderful. We've seen people volunteer and provide financial support, and, we need more of the same. Most of all, we need help in spreading the word and encouraging people to purchase tickets and attend the show."



Photo by Steve Porter

This summer, 40 years after the music and story of the original "Saturday's Warrior" touched thousands of people's lives, the Flinders Family will again take to the stage to portray an updated version of this powerful musical. Playing family members are, back row: (l to r) Tyler Maxson as Mr. Flinders, Carson Saline as Jimmy Flinders, next to back row, Linsey Maxson as Mrs. Flinders, Allan DeWitt as Benjy, Kendra Clement as Pam; next to front row, Cole Maxson as Ernie, Tatum Stolworthy as Alice, Corrinne Clement as Julie; front row, Kirra Abplanalp as Emily and Skylar Rines as Shelly.

For more about *Saturday's Warrior*, or to purchase tickets, visit www.saturdaywarrioraz.com.

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MOUNTAIN VIEW FUNERAL HOME & CEMETERY

Offers Services Tailored to LDS Families

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Carrying on a rich legacy of assisting families in their time of loss, Mountain View Funeral Home and Cemetery and the more recently added San Tan Mountain View Funeral Home and Advance Planning Center are known for excellent service, personalized options, affordable choices and caring support.

Established in 1951 by Albert M. Coury, Sr., the company is still family-owned and operated, now under the direction of Albert's son, Daniel, and Daniel's son, Greg.

The 50-acre East Mesa cemetery, with its majestic waterfall entrance, rich lawn and hundreds of trees, is heralded as the Valley's most beautiful cemetery.

The Courys continue to build on their already solid reputation, taking care to ensure that families have the most personal and meaningful care possible. An example is in the way they have tailored

their services to the Latter-day Saint community. Twelve special gardens dot the grounds, including Catholic, Christian and Masonic Gardens and one dedicated to the LDS faith.

"This is one way we are reaching out to the LDS community," says president Greg Coury, adding that, since it opened, "Forty-plus families have chosen the LDS garden as their resting place.

"We also have a beautiful granite memorial carved in the shape of the Mesa Temple," he says, "and we encourage anyone to bring drawings—say, of other temples—or other ideas for upright monuments, and we can have them custom made."

In the LDS-focused garden, "We are adding a center feature that includes 48 crypts and a six-foot Christus adorning the top. It's a beautiful feature made of light granite, much like the color of the Gilbert and Mesa Temples."



Photo courtesy Mountain View Funeral Home

A new center feature, including 48 crypts, with a six-foot Christus adorning the top, is being added in the LDS-focused garden of the Mountain View Cemetery in East Mesa.

Both locations have designated dressing areas for Latter-day Saints. "We have a dressing room in San Tan and use the small chapel in Mesa," Greg says. Both are tastefully decorated, with chairs and pictures of the Mesa and Gilbert temples.

Funeral services are conducted at both locations, and they have a reception room that can be used for family gatherings afterwards. "We truly want to work with families so they can use whichever of our services they feel most comfortable with, whatever meets their needs."

Greg adds that their staff is compassionate, well-trained and professional. "All of our funeral directors are

licensed, meaning they have been to school and have served an apprenticeship. They are also licensed embalmers and licensed to do cremations."

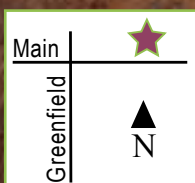
"Our facilities and services are second to none," Greg continues, noting that they offer top-quality products at excellent value. "We encourage people to compare prices," he says, "and we highly recommend advance planning to save on cemetery plots and funerals."

To contact Mountain View Funeral Home and Cemetery at 7900 E Main St. in Mesa, visit www.mvfuneralhome.com or call 480-832-2850. To reach the San Tan Mountain View Funeral Home, at 21809 S. Ellsworth in Queen Creek, call 480-888-2682.

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By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Drive anywhere near Piggly’s Smokehouse, on Stapley near the 60 Freeway, and the mouth-watering aroma of their “Serious Barbecue” will tease your taste buds and extend an invitation to indulge.

But, it’s when you step inside that the real experience begins. The one-of-a-kind restaurant makes for unparalleled dining satisfaction, with its colorful décor; family-friendly atmosphere; attentive, service-oriented staff and scrumptious menu of barbecue and fair favorites.

“We want families to be able to come and, when they walk through that door, we want them to know they’re somewhere special,” says Janine Sawyers. She and her husband, Craig, are co-owners of Piggly’s, continuing the family tradition started in 1964.

“His parents started in Washington State,” as a concessions company that served burgers, hot dogs and Piggly’s

famous curly fries at fairs and festivals “all up and down the west coast,” Janine says.

Craig still runs the concessions side, supplying Piggly’s signature selections at barbecue events, carnivals and community festivals from Arizona to Canada.

“But,” Janine says, “the restaurant was always our dream. It was always our goal to bring our food and our flavors to our neighbors and community.”

And, they wanted to do it in a way that would attract both kids and seniors—and everyone in between.

“We use all local meats and do all our smoking in-house,” Janine says. Their fried zucchini, onion rings and Piggly’s famous fries are “all fresh vegetables, fresh cut and hand-dipped.” Along with delicious hamburgers, turkey legs, pulled pork and ribs, they offer a “kids and seniors” menu with chicken tenders, corn dogs and

delicious barbecue sandwiches. Daily specials include beef ribs on Thursday and an all-you-can-eat catfish fry on Friday. Then, there’s Piggly’s handcrafted desserts—including old-fashioned funnel cakes, sundaes, sweet-tooth satisfying cotton candy and deep-fried Oreos, Twinkies and Snickers.

Piggly’s offers both full-service or fast casual, so customers can order and pick up their food at the counter and help themselves to the condiment area for extra fixings. Their newest service option is a barbecue buffet at lunchtime. In addition, Piggly’s provides catering services and box lunches for community events and parties; and, families or groups can reserve the patio area, free of charge, where they can enjoy a buffet-style meal for 25 to 100 people.

“We’ve made it fun, so kids color on the paper tablecloths, draw on the



Photo courtesy Janine Sawyers

Piggly’s Smokehouse, in Mesa, serves up Serious Barbecue(r), Piggly’s signature fries, delicious desserts and all the trimmings, in a fun, family friendly-atmosphere—all part of the family legacy kept alive by owners, Janine and Greg Sawyers (center), shown here at the restaurant’s grand opening, with their sons, Zach (l) and Riley (r).

chalkboard, play the beanbag toss, or sit in tilt-a-whirl style benches—and it’s all free. Parents don’t have to shell out an extra \$20, \$30 or more for games,” Janine says.

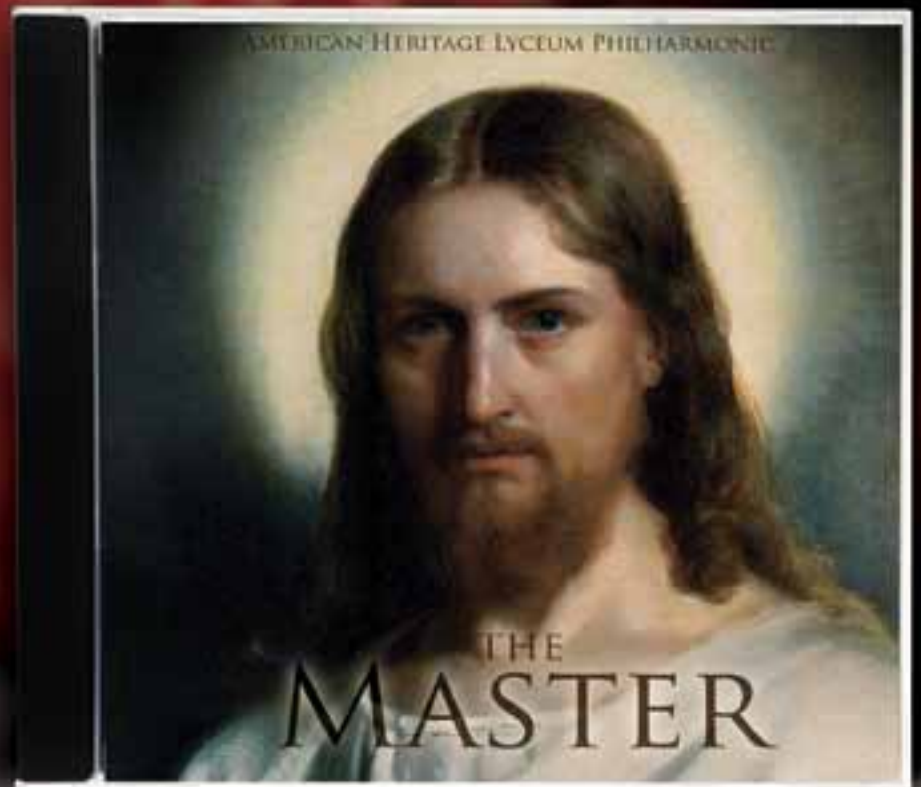
Janine says they look forward to sharing Piggly’s food and family-fun. “Come and ‘experience the legend,’” she says.

Piggly’s Smokehouse is located at 1633 S. Stapley in Mesa. See their menu at www.PigglysAtTheFair.com. For reservations or takeout, call 480-707-9009.

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Mayor Scott Smith

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- Fourth-Generation Arizonan with Gila Valley roots
- Married 35 years to Kim, 3 children, 5 grandchildren
- Eagle Scout
- Degree in Accounting from Brigham Young University
- MBA and Law degree from Arizona State University
- CPA for over 25 years
- As a CEO, Smith turned a struggling local home-building company into one of Arizona's largest, with over 350 employees and \$200 million a year in annual sales



As Mayor, my team and I reduced government regulations, created quality jobs, brought six colleges and universities to our community, reduced crime to a 40-year low, and Mesa spent less on its operations than when I was first elected. I want to do the same for Arizona. I ask for your support for my campaign.



– Mayor Scott Smith

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